

JAN 79

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N. Inc.

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

ZERO BEAT

31st year ARRL
Affiliated

JANUARY, 1979

Winner, Certificate
of Merit, N.E. Newsletter
Competition, 1978

Don't Miss These:

VHF SWEEPSTAKES - January 13 14

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST- January 27, 28

SPECIAL EVENT STATION AT THE 1980 WINTER OLYMPICS!

NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY JANUARY 5TH AT 8 PM

LASARS, HOLOGRAMS, LASAR OPTIC COMMUNICATIONS!!!

(FILM BY AC1T ON THE SEPTEMBER SS AT W1NY

W1RWU WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UPCOMING VHF SS.)

VHF SWEEPSTAKES BY FRANK POTTS, W1RWU

Once again VHF Sweepstakes time is almost upon us. The 1979 SS will be somewhat different than those in the past. First, the MTARA and the HCRA will not be competing against each other as they have been in past years. This year MTARA/HCRA joint members are encouraged to submit their logs to the Hampden County Club. (Hams that are members of only the MTARA will of course only submit logs to Mt. Tom) Under the new ARRL club competition rules, (See August QST, p. 66), the clubs should be much more competitive than they have in the past. Full contest rules will appear in the December issue of QST.

This year's contest should also produce higher individual scores due to the increase of club members and activity. Those with the new multi-mode rigs will have a good chance to take full advantage of their capabilities. What better time to try out that new rig, preamp, antenna system or whatever? Members who are limited to FM should be able to make many contacts on the simplex frequencies. (See rules for possible frequency and time restrictions.) Anyone wishing to operate the contest and does not have equipment or antennas should contact either W1FCR or W1RWU. We will make every attempt to set you up with something. Those who have surplus equipment they would not mind lending out, please contact us. There will be one or more multi-operator efforts within the club, and judging from past experiences help in any form would be appreciated. (i.e. cooking, antenna work, operating, logging, etc.)

Those who are limited as to the time they can devote to the contest, should make a concentrated effort to get on at the same time. 6 to 10 pm on Saturday night and 3 to 6 pm on Sunday might be ideal. Remember, even if you only make three or four contacts this could literally mean thousands of points for the club if some of the big stations with many multipliers are worked. (If you work W1NY you can also get the QSL card!) Attached to this newsletter is a log sheet and summary sheet which are required for the contest. Additional log sheets will be available at the January meeting. Please forward them at your earliest convenience to: FRANK POTTS, W1RWU, 154 SOUTH LOOMIS ST., SOUTHWICK, MASS 01077

So let's get on the air the weekend of January 13 14 and make the 1979 VHF Sweepstakes the biggest and best ever!!!

Jan 13 at 1800Z

to 0400Z Jan. 15

JOTTINGS

NLABJ checked into the WMN. FB, Bob and don't sweat it, those Q signals will soon make sense...John, DALUY/KALCZ has been trying to get into the 10 meter net on Monday nights from Germany. He's looking for a two meter rig of any type, his address is CW3 John Haskell, HQ 7th sig bde, APO New York, 09028...W1QV sends his regards to all his old friends in the club. Bob enjoys ZB a great deal...

CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

On December 8th, 130 club members and assorted XYL's/YL's partied at the Holyoke Elk's Club. Ron, WB1ETS put together a superb party, with excellent facilities, food, drinks, and music. Many people won door prizes, and the dance floor was always full. W1MM was even out there two-stepping! The only radio club business conducted was to announce that W1KK, Art Zavarella is now a life member of the HCRA. Many thanks to Ron Beauchemin, WB1ETS, Moe, WB1FIP, Art, WB1FIJ, (A good dancer, too!), Al, WB1EMN, and everyone else who contributed to make this such a memorable occasion! (Ron is already planning the 1979 Xmas party.)

MEMBERSHIP GOINGS-ON

The six meter net is being revived by the club. No longer just AM, it'll meet on Thursdays at 8 pm on 144.120 mhz. W1RWU will be the ex-officio net manager...N1FJ had his QRPP article re-printed in "World Radio News". HCRA and ZB were also credited...W1RWU, WB1CAC, K1APR, W1ECR, W1LPJ, W1KK, and soon-to-be-licensed Rich and Bill put together a fantastic effort on the ten meter contest. Over 1400 contacts all across the globe!...W1UKR/W1KUL helped W1ORT et al when icy Monson roads caused them to skid off the highway...The VHF SS effort continues to build. Some members spend all year getting ready for it! Even if all you can get on is a simplex FM frequency, do it. The club multiplier will go way up. Get your logs back to W1RWU early...WB1APD, (XOM of WB1EHS) is enjoying his five week vacation.....

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

Gerry, W1PGT and Dr. Ted Scott put on an excellent computer show for 150+ people. Seven systems were demonstrated, with varying degrees of sophistication. If you weren't there, you missed out on a good meeting. Thanks to Gerry and Ted.....

ZERO BEAT IS HUGE THIS MONTH BECAUSE WE WERE LIMITED TO SIX PAGES IN DECEMBER. THIS IS AN EXPERIMENTAL ISSUE. IF YOU HAVE EYESIGHT PROBLEMS, YOU CAN REQUEST IN WRITING TO RECEIVE FULL SIZE PAGES. PLEASE DON'T REQUEST THIS UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. IT'S EXPENSIVE!

HCRA WORKED ALL STATES CONTEST!

This popular contest from the past is back! Everyone who enters will receive a certificate. The top scorer will be the recipient of a beautiful plaque with their name and call letters. It's an easy, fun contest. Here are the rules:

1. Open to all HCRA members.
2. Contacts on any band count one (1) point for each state.
3. Maximum number of points per band is 50. Mode doesn't matter.
4. Highest score wins. Contest runs from February first, (0000 Z) to March 31st. (0000 Z)
5. Submit logs or photostats with computed score. QSL cards not required.
6. Winner will be announced in the May ZB. Keep us informed of your progress.

Help Create Radio Activity!!!!

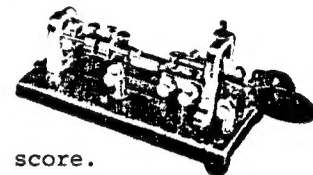
Multipliers:

Novices: Multiply total score by 2

Technicians: Multiply total score by 1.5

General/Advanced: ADD 10 points to your total score.

Amateur Extra: No multipliers!

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER, 1949 ZERO BEAT!

Lew McCoy, an old friend of the club, spoke on the Communications Department at the League. John Cann, W1ACM, talked on cw traffic handling and the best way to send a message from Springfield to Inner Mongolia...Percy Noble, W1BVR spoke on proposed opening of 20 meter phone frequencies if we get use of a 15 meter band... ZB has five associate editors handling departments like contests, DX, traffic, Technical Tips, and Trading Post. Postage cost 2¢ to mail the newsletter...W1NY, the "Tom Swift" of Wilbraham built a small (?) six meter rig that works. (5x7x2 chassis)... W1PHU reports his new "cascade" preamp has got him onto the high end of ten meters...Pleas for participation on WMN by W1RHU, "We will QRS if asked!" (sound familiar? ..editor)... W1CJK and W1PDF made DXCC list...W1MQK reports QSO's with Russia and Africa...W1CJK winning DX phone contest...Another FB technical article by W1QWJ. (We hope to reprint some of these!..ed).....

SCM? WHAT'S THAT???

The SCM is the leading official of all League sponsored operating activities within the section. The Section Communications Manager for Western Mass is Bill Lowe, W1TM. He's responsible for the National Traffic System and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, the two sub-parts of the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. The officials who run these are appointed by the SCM. The SCM is also expected to promote a wide range of amateur activity and enthusiasm within the section. If you'd like to help out or just find out more, contact Bill at: Commonwealth Ave, Great Barrington, Mass. 01230.

MESSAGE FROM 3C123

The "Cyclops" moved slowly. Over one thousand dishes, each as large as a football field, centered on 3 C 123. Our coded messages sent 2,000 years before had been answered from space! The masar receiver, and "UBI 10" computer traced out the continuous message travelling all of these light years. The pulsing was based on a code devised by a long-dead scientist, as was everyone else who'd started this project. Mankind experienced a profound shock; intelligence existed elsewhere in the universe. The coded pulses slowly printed out: "UBI, translate please." Whirling lights and the teleprinter displayed for all to see, the message from the stars: "10-4, good buddy!"

JANUARY MEETING

Thanks to Chet, K1YQQ, on Friday, January 5th, Dan Courtney of Springfield Technical Community College will speak to us on **LASARS**! His presentation will cover lasar optics, optic communications, and holograms. A ruby lasar will be demonstrated. Slides will help illustrate this talk, which will be geared to the lasar novice. If you have any "science wiz-kid" friends, invite them along. Don't miss this important technical meeting. See you there. (A film by ACIT on the VHF Sweepstakes at W1NY in September will be shown. Logs and other information on the January SS will be given by W1RWU, Frank Potts.)

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES!

W1UWX has been in the hospital. Hope you're better, Cliff, and don't have to operate the SS from a bed!...Ollie, N1AFK is working to get his code speed up for the Extra. Why not check into the Western Mass Net on 3562 every night at 7 pm?... K1IJV/K1IJU put up a new tower with the help of K1TF and W1JP. Typical of Norm to wait for cold wx and blizzards... The FCC will be in Hartford January 29, 30, 31st. Send in the form 610 now marked "I will appear for exam in Hartford"... Next Hartford exam is April 24, 25, 26...

THIS IS A ROUND TUIT.
AT LONG LAST WE HAVE A SUFFICIENT
QUANTITY FOR EACH OF YOU TO HAVE YOUR
OWN.

THESE TUITIS ARE VERY HARD TO COME
BY, ESPECIALLY THE ROUND TUITIS. THEY ARE TRULY
INDISPENSIBLE ITEMS. THESE TUITIS ARE ESPECIALLY DE-
SIGNIED TO IMPROVE YOUR EFFICIENCY.

FOR YEARS WE HAVE HEARD PEOPLE SAY,
"I'LL DO THAT AS SOON AS I GET A 'ROUND TUIT.'" SO...
NOW WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A TUIT
OF YOUR VERY OWN... INDEED... A ROUND TUIT.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE IT WHENEVER
THE TIME ARISES WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED TO SAY...
"I'LL DO THAT WHENEVER I GET A ROUND TUIT." FOR
NOW YOU HAVE ONE, YOU ARE ONE OF THE VERY FEW
PEOPLE WHO CAN FEEL THAT YOUR TROUBLES
ARE OVER, AND NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU NEED TO
PUT OFF DOING THE TASKS THAT REQUIRE A ROUND
TUIT.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

TNX-W1ZKT

LASAR

Laws for Hams to Live By in Moments of Trouble

- **MURPHY'S LAW:** If something can go wrong it will
- **BROWNWORTH'S LAW:** Any time things seem to be going better, you've overlooked something
- **PLUMBER'S LAW:** Nothing is impossible for a man who doesn't have to do it himself
- **PINACLES LAW:** Once a job is failed up, anything done to improve it makes it worse
- **BIRD'S LAW:** There's never enough time to do it right, but there's always enough time to do it over
- **DINGLES LAW:** When somebody drops the ball, everyone else will kick it around instead of picking it up!

"Timeout!"

by Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

I recently had the rare treat of playing with two fine, new HF transceivers, side by side, for several fun-filled hours at a friend's shack. The two units were the Drake TR-7 and the I-COM IC-701. Each was fresh out of the box and we nearly wore out the antenna switch, going between the two rigs.

My impression of both rigs were favorable though I found the I-COM to offer many more features and at a lower price. Rather than reproduce the "spec" sheets which are available from the manufacturer, I will describe the most striking aspects of the equipment.

The TR-7 is a very "basic" radio. It comes with only one built-in IF filter and one VFO. Many of the planned accessories are not yet available. The operation and feel of the receiver is very similar to the R4C and one is tempted to think of the TR7 as a repackaging of the TR4Cw with a solid state final and digital readout. The receiver was sensitive and with the optional filter, (which I installed), quite selective. There were two disappointments, first, the matching power supply was bigger and heavier than the transceiver. Second, the manual is very poor, omitting even a schematic diagram of the radio. The service section is one page long, consisting of the address of the R.L. Drake Company.

The I-COM IC-701 offers similar sensitivity and selectivity as nearly as I could feel by ear. It comes with built-in IF filters and two VFO's, (both digitally synthesized). Included in the transmitter section is a speech processor. Little extras like a built-in fan and microphone are included. The radio is small, compact and very convenient to operate. On the negative side, some of the audio reports we got with the speech processor in, were mixed. Also, the radio will not operate at all outside the present amateur bands without additional equipment. Thus, if the WARC slips the bands 50 KHz, you'll be excluded. Thirdly, the radio is extremely complex. This makes maintenance a problem even with the good manual provided.

If you are thinking of purchasing either of these new radios, it would be worthwhile for you to shop around, nation-wide. You could save several hundred dollars by so doing.

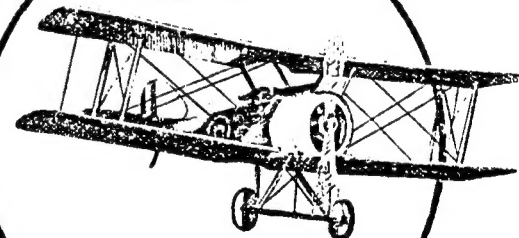
de Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Art, W1FIJ Ed, W1YQY
Bob, W1NYP Larry, W1GUS
Don LeMay Steve, K1AGQ
Gary, AB1I P.R., W1HEE
Greg, N1AEH Marcia, K1AXM
Don, W1SDY Doug, W1DLT
Leon, W1DCB
P. Tureotte, K1EBA

We hope you'll be at the next meeting to introduce yourselves!
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

HAM PILOTS : BRING IN YOUR
FLYING SLIDES TO SHARE WITH
YOUR FRIENDS!

FRIDAY
FEB 2nd

HAM PILOT'S NIGHT
FAA FILMS, SLIDES!

The Spark Gap



Thanks for use of K1FE's article!

January Zero Beat '79

YOU MAY BE WILLING-BUT ARE YOU ABLE!!!

All amateur radio operators who are interested in taking part in the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise which will again take place in January, 1979 should read all the info contained in the December '78 QST, page 77. The message format for SET,

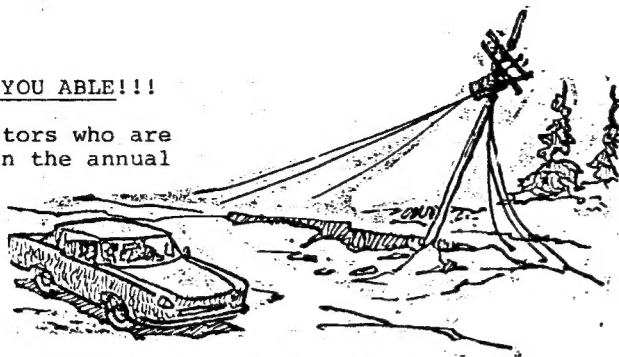
as described in QST, should be clearly understood and adhered to. Net sessions for both HF and VHF operations involving the NTS (National Traffic System) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) within the Western Mass. Section will shortly be formulated and should appear in newsletters in early January. Hams not presently familiar with traffic and emergency net operations should get accustomed to net procedures prior to the SET by listening in and participating in one of our regularly scheduled HF or VHF nets. The point brought out in the last paragraph of the SET article in QST cannot be overemphasized!

73, Bob, WALDNB

If you'd like to join the ARES, complete the enclosed form and mail to: Robert Phoenix, WALDNB 121' N. Main St;K-7 Belchertown, Ma 01007 Do not join if you aren't ready to participate often.

SET

JAN 27TH 28TH



1. Name:		2. Call:	
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE REGISTRATION FORM			
3. Address:			
4. City:	5. State/Prov.:	6. Zip:	
7. County:	8. Home phone:	9. Bus. phone:	
10. License Class:	11. Primary radio interest:		
12. (Circle bands you can operate)			
CW: 160 80 40 20 15 10			
PHONE: 160 75 40 20 15 10 6 2AM 2FM			
MOBILE: 160 75/80 40 20 15 10 6 2AM 2FM			
13. Can your home station operate without commercial power? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
If yes, what bands? 160 75/80 40 20 15 10 6 2AM 2FM			
14. Request FULL membership <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED membership <input type="checkbox"/>			
15. Signed:		16. Date: 19.....	

JOTTINGS

Jim, W1RBU took some great slides of our November computer meeting. We hope to show them soon...Roger Roy needs a ride to meetings from Holyoke. Donations of old ham magazines and a useful HF receiver to borrow would be appreciated. His phone number is 534-3715...W1NY did well in the September VHF SS, and the UHF contest as you saw in December QST. Frank Potts said we were 12th and 5th in the country! FB on a job well done to W1RWU, W1ECR, AC1T, WB1CAC, K1APR and W1KK...

AMATEUR RADIO GENERAL LICENSING COURSE

BEGINS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th

TEN WEEKS, 7 to 9 pm

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

DICKINSON ST., SPRINGFIELD, MASS

COURSE CONTENTS:

AC AND DC THEORY
DIODES AND POWER SUPPLIES
AMPLIFIER THEORY
OSCILLATORS
TRANSISTORS

MODULATION
RECEIVERS
FEEDLINES
PROPAGATION
INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Course will cover everything you need to know to pass element 3A for an amateur general or technician's license. No morse code will be taught! Students are expected to have a basic novice level understanding at the beginning of the class. Enrollment is limited, course fee is \$20.00

Instructor is Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE, holder of Second class commercial license with radar and amateur extra class tickets. Slides, films, demonstration, lectures, and practical testing will be used. Textbook will be the "Radio Amateur's License Manual". (Costs \$3.00) HOMEWORK IS REQUIRED!

TO ENROLL, CALL THE CENTER AT 739-4715

GENERAL LICENSE CLASSES will be held at the Putnam Technical High School in Springfield starting January 23rd, 1979. Registration will begin on Monday night January 8 through Monday January 22nd, 6:30-8:30. (Mon through Thurs) The Radio Amateur's License Manual will be used. Everyone is welcome. Fee is \$10.00 for intown students, and \$20.00 for out of towners. Free for intown veterans. Norm, N1PF, be looking for you.

Provin Mountain ARA will be having NOVICE/GENERAL LICENSE COURSES again in 1979. They meet on Monday nights at the Red Cross Building on Maple Street in Springfield. Contact Chick Boilard, W1VCU on the .10/.70 machine or at 543-1836.



" I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GET IN ON THE VHF SS!!! "



XIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES 1980

ADMINISTRATION CENTER
P.O. BOX 1980
LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK 12946

PHONE OLYMPIC 3-4211
(AREA CODE 518)
TELEX. LPOOC
954632

RONALD M. MACKENZIE
President
ART DEVLIN
Vice-President
REV. J. BERNARD FELL
Executive Director



Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee

November 21, 1978

Jean Peacor, K11JV
Country Club Drive
Monson, Mass. 01057

Dear Jean,

In reference to your letter of November 5, 1978 and your suggestion for an official Olympic amateur radio station, I wanted you to be aware of the plans underway to do this exact thing.

By the time you receive this letter we should have approval and Olympic Committee sanctioning of what we are calling WORAN - Winter Olympic Radio Amateur Network. Rather than explain its function here, please see the attached letter of November 13, 1978 which is quite detailed and should be self-explanatory.

We have received numerous letters from amateurs and clubs who would like to help out. These inquiries are being forwarded to Mr. Lincoln Dixon, Chairman - WORAN (c/o Adirondack Engineering Corporation, Bloomingdale, New York 12913). The attached form should be completed and sent to Lincoln if you are interested.

I am trying to discourage individual clubs or organizations from setting up stations in this area during the Olympics and for obvious reasons. There will be over 40 foreign teams with radio, numerous companies with high power base stations, 35 Olympic channels, security forces with radios, WORAN, RCC's, and on and on. As you can see, the RF density is going to be unbelievable and we expect to have some major desense and intermod problems. Of course, we have no control over who comes in with radio and certainly low power mobiles are not a concern, but higher power stations operating out of trailers or camps, etc., could be a problem if they're not "clean".

In regards to a WORAN call sign, we may still be able to obtain a special call and I will be working on this with the F.C.C. Thank you for your offer of W1NY but we better hold off on that.

Thank you very much for your inquiry and I hope I will see you here during the Olympics helping out with WORAN.

If you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to hear from you.

73, *Brian*

Brian T. Fovel,
Deputy Director of Communications

C: Kathy Rogers, Official Housing
Lincoln Dixon, WORAN

Bobbie Chamalian, ARRL
Lee Borland, LPOOC

MEMORANDUM # COM-78-77

DATE: November 13, 1978
TO: Ronald M. MacKenzie, President
FROM: Brian Fovel, Deputy Director of Communications
SUBJECT: Official Winter Olympic Radio Amateur Network (WORAN)

WORAN

BACKGROUND

During the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, licensed Radio Amateurs handled 12,000 radio messages to and from Montreal from all over the world. 60% of these messages were outgoing from athletes and 25% were incoming for athletes. Other messages were handled for the general public as well as Olympic officials. Traffic and road report information was also relayed.

Historically, amateur radio has provided considerable public service and especially emergency assistance in time of disaster (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, riots, etc.). Amateur radio is dedicated to public service and public service is one of the primary reasons for its existence and the support provided by the FCC and the World Radio Conferences. For those unfamiliar with amateur radio, it should be pointed out that it is not Citizen's Band (C.B.). Radio Amateurs are highly trained communicators and technicians who must successfully pass Federal Communications Commission (FCC) administered examinations in radio theory, communication law, operating procedures and international morse code.

PROPOSAL

An organization of amateur radio operators (chairman: Lincoln Dixon), has been established consisting of individuals from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh, Tupper Lake, Montreal, Burlington, Vt., and other communities in the north country for the purpose of providing worldwide communication into and out of the Olympic area during the 1980 Olympics and Pre-Games periods.

The organization has been unofficially designated as the Winter Olympic Amateur Network (WORAN) and requires official Olympic sanctioning in order to proceed with their planning and implementation. Manufacturers are standing by ready to donate equipment for their use.

WORAN will be prepared to handle worldwide messages on a no cost basis for athletes, visitors and officials and on a non-interference basis with commercial carriers.

An amateur radio station would be set up in Lake Placid via a VHF repeater network (already in use) to outside locations such as Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, Burlington, Vt. and Montreal. Messages would then be relayed via regular amateur radio networks to their destinations throughout the world. Within 24 hours a message can be relayed from Lake Placid to Europe or Japan or elsewhere.

The American Radio Relay League is very supportive of this program and has offered to assist in any way possible.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Amateur radio operators are planned for to provide the communications support along the Torch Run route and arrangements for this are being finalized with Garyian Butler, Technical Director for the run.
- The local amateur radio community has volunteered to install and tune 25 mobile radios which the LPOOC needs for the administrative radio system. This will save approximately \$250.00 per radio (\$6,250).
- The Rochester Amateur Radio Association has agreed to re-crystal and tune 165 used Motorola pocket pagers to be put in use by the LPOOC in 1979 and 1980. This will save approxiamtely \$40.00 per pager (\$6,600.).
- Amateurs will be involved with road and traffic reports through the Tupper Lake repeater system which has wide area, reliable coverage (FM) from Watertown to Montreal to Burlington to Albany and Utica. This activity will be independent of the message handling network described in the proposal section.
- The LPOOC will be able to draw on the amateur radio community for continued communications support. They have always proven to be ready, willing and able.

It is requested that the LPOOC officially sanction the Winter Olympic Radio Amateur Network (WORAN) and authorize them to function as the official amateur radio organization during the Olympic and Pre-Games periods. They should have full authority to use the Olympic logo to publicize their volunteer activities and services.

1. Club name and address HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC
P.O. BOX 216, FOREST PARK STATION, SPRINGFIELD, MA
2. Send correspondence to JEFFREY J. DUQUETTE, K1PE
at P.O. BOX 346, SOUTHWICK, MASS 01077
3. 12-20 (number) members wish to assist
ALL Have had experience with communications of a message nature at
a display booth situation
4. Our plans include: WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP BY MANNING THE HF STATION.
WE WOULD PRING OUR OWN EQUIPMENT IF NEEDED. MEMBERS HAVE HAD
A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC RELATIONS. WE
PARTICIPATED IN THE KMICC OPERATION ON CAPE COD. WE ARE ALSO THE
CALL AREA NUMBER ONE DX QSL PUREAU.
5. Our club has a person or persons who are in the YES, MANY PEOPLE
Newspaper Television Radio media
(callsign) _____

6. We suggest the following to other clubs wishing to take part: _____
BE READY TO HELP IN BIG AND SMALL WAYS. CAREFUL PREPARATIONS
GO A LONG WAY. PLAN ON SUPPLYING 90% OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

7. We suggest that ARRL participate by: PUBLICITY IN QST, GETTING THE
NTS READY FOR ALL OF THE TRAFFIC.

OLD TIMER'S RIG.

"This old rig is a miracle of craftsmanship!", I thought, "How did they ever operate these old things?" The spark gap transmitter I'd bought glistened like new. The huge glass capacitors gleamed, the coil couldn't wait to be energized, and copper glowed on the transmitter. Not wanting to be too authentic, I'd wired it up to a car battery. The receiver tuned 100 to 300 meters by using a coil you pushed in and out. Detection was via a galena crystal and "cat's whiskers" into Murdock earphones. I knew it was illegal to fire up the transmitter but I had to know if it worked. "Ah, heck, a quick CQ won't hurt anybody." The buzz-buzz-buzz sounded neat, especially watching the spark jump across the gap. I put the earphones on so that I could hear it over the air. When I stopped sending a strange thing happened: a raspy note came out of the 'phones, a different tone than I'd ever heard. What was that callsign? LAIG? Yeah, for sure it was, "LAIG, K" I answered for chuckles, knowing someone had heard me testing, and was making a joke. The operator came back, his name was Art and he was in West Hartford, weather there was rainy, and he's using the radio in the barn. Wow, this guy is a nut, my QTH is only 20 miles from Hartford, and the sky is clear. The morse was getting very weak, but I still could copy, wait a minute, what's this?

"Do U think the U.S. will enter war in Europe? General Pershing will give them a run for their money. K"

I answered but the signal was gone. Was this old receiver storing signals in the capacitors? Had this morse been bouncing around in the ionosphere for 50 years? Now I'll never know...

K1BE

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Kevin, W1JUUJ, will be home from overseas in December. He wrote that he can't wait to get into the SS...Frank, W1RWU will soon have his earth-moon-earth station on the air...Art, W1KK, got some new antennas up before the cold weather set in...Al, W1LEMN has 16 soon-to-be novices in his license class...W1DLE listens in to the 10 meter net Monday nights, but can't check in due to TVI...W1BVR put up a new antenna with W1DVW's help... Ham Radio Horizons will print the article about the HCRA probably in the February issue. Don't be surprised to see yourself!...Jeff, K1BE has had a short story accepted by Horizons. It's about hiking, hamming, and W1BVR, Percy is featured in it...

BUILDING A STATION FOR RECEIVING SATELLITE TELEVISION

By Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE
(First of Five Parts)

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Television signals are now relayed all over the world via satellite. You can eavesdrop on them and have "free" cable TV with over 40 channels. Not only that, but no commercials or censorship. Video-taping for your own use of movies and live broadcasts can be used for hours of enjoyment. This series of articles will explore how to go about setting up a receiving station to catch all of these interesting signals floating by. I'll start with a few satellite basics, go into specifics about television satellites, what's required for receiving equipment, and then what antenna designs are required.

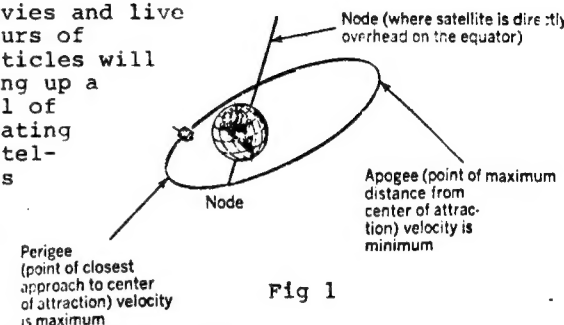


Fig 1

Satellites orbit the earth. The type of orbit they are in makes a difference. Most of the TV relay satellites use synchronous orbits, with perigee and apogee equidistant. (See Figure #1) This means that the satellite's period is just about 24 hours. OSCAR orbits are low, that's why you only get about 20 minutes access time. The area on the ground the satellite can reach depends upon how high it is. (See Fig. 2) Just like the more familiar mountain top machines, satellite repeaters have more coverage with higher orbits. Fortunately most TV relays are in a high synchronous orbit. This means that you'll only have to point your antenna at one spot in the sky. No elaborate tracking systems or azimuth motors are required. Once you're all set up and receiving pictures, you can leave it on one satellite, or change it to others. Not just U.S. satellites are available, but also Russian, etc.

In the next ZB, I'll cover more specifics, the frequencies involved, and receivers required. Read up on this subject! The ARRL has a good book on OSCAR.

73,

Jeff

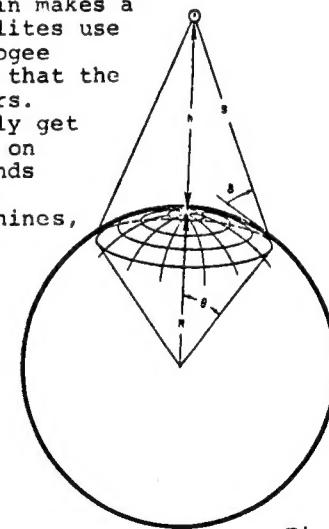


Fig 2

- a RADIUS OF EARTH (3960 N MI)
- b CENTRAL ANGLE SUBTENDED BY GREAT CIRCLE HALF-ARC TO BE OBSERVED
- c MAXIMUM SLANT RANGE
- d LIMITING ANGLE OF VISIBILITY (DEPENDENT ON SENSORS AND MISSION)
- e MINIMUM SATELLITE ALTITUDE SUCH THAT REQUIRED AREA IS OBSERVED

Global area observed by a satellite.

Contest Operating

By Roger Corey, W1JYH

For thousands of years the minds of men have conceived laws and doctrines designed to govern the actions of their contemporaries, but like all other human creations, the laws of man have been broken, the doctrines revoked and the way of life which each generation believes its own demands new rules. Nature's laws alone remain unchanged. Thus the ant works, the grasshopper plays and the tiny Lemming, driven by an unconquerable inner force, periodically rushes to the sea and ultimate self-destruction. Thus too, thousands of amateurs, driven by a competitive spirit which Nature has decreed that each of us must possess, rush periodically to the shacks to call "CQ contest." While it is doubtful that anyone will ever take the trouble to make the Lemming's icy plunge any more comfortable, we believe that an attempt to make amateur radio contest participation less painful would be a humanitarian effort worthy of considerable merit.

If McCaulay's schoolboy were alive today he would be well acquainted with the fact that the greatest single factor in successful contest work, and the enjoyment thereof, is EXPERIENCE. He would also be aware that a great deal of needless effort may be expended in gaining experience if proper guidance is not available and that experience is a great teacher only when the student is aware of what he wants to learn. This article, therefore, is written with the hope that it will aid the contest new-comer in gaining useful experience and also provide the more experienced contest man with a check-list with which he may sharpen his technique. A careful review of all post-war handbooks and amateur magazines reveals that nothing has been written covering the complete subject of contest participation. However, there have been two very excellent articles published, each covering a specific phase of the art which should be on the "must-read" list of every contest man. They are "Care and Feeding of Contest Operators" by J. H. Paddon, VE1OU, in January 1951 CQ, and "Contestmanship" by G. F. Montgomery, W3FQB, in August 1951 CQ. We should like to give the full subject as comprehensive and competent a treatment as these authors have given their chosen phases, but we have neither the skill nor the space available. Consequently, we submit the following summary as the best means of fulfilling our objectives commensurate with our limitations.

I Physical Condition — (see Paddon, Care and Feeding, etc.)

1. Start the contest well rested and in good health.
2. Don't overeat or depend on stimulants to keep going.
3. Make certain the operating position is as comfortable as possible.
4. During the contest, rest *before* getting overtired.

II Mental Condition

1. Set a goal. Either enter to win for your area or try for a certain number of contacts, score or multiplier. If you reach your goal during the contest, set another a little higher.
2. Keep alert at all times. Every second of operating time should be devoted to attaining the goal.
3. Mental activity should be confined to planning the *next* contact. The one in progress should be automatic.
4. Forget everything except the contest. This is probably your one chance to stop worrying about loused-up world events so make the most of it.

III Equipment

1. VFO, break-in and fatigue reduction devices, (noise limiter, monitor etc.) are musts.
2. Bandswitching, single control tuning or separate transmitters are highly desirable. It is also handy to have a direct-reading clock.
3. A clean signal with plenty of punch and good keying or limited bandwidth modulation will produce a greater number of contacts.
4. Spare tubes and parts should be kept on hand.

IV Operating (see Montgomery, "Contestmanship")

1. Thoroughly memorize all rules of the contest so that you may take advantage of all possibilities of increasing your score.
2. Determine the *shortest possible* transmission which can be made, practice, if necessary, before the contest until it becomes mechanical, and stick to it.
3. Send information only once and repeat only when asked and only the portion asked.
4. Spread operating time over as much of the contest period as possible taking several brief rest periods in preference to one long one.
5. When calling another station in domestic contests, zero beat *exactly* with his carrier. In DX contests listen carefully for calling instructions, follow them when given and otherwise call where you think he is listening. (This latter subject is now being offered in several colleges in courses on extra-sensory powers.)
6. Maintain lists of stations worked to avoid duplicate contacts.
7. Learn to listen to several other stations while copying one, thus when the contact is completed an instant decision can be made as to whether to call CQ or to call another station.
8. Notice what others are doing. For example: If you hear W4KFC say "Tnx for new section" near the end of a contest, the chances are that it will be new for you too, so stick around.
9. Take pains to make your sending readable. A moderate, steady speed (20-25 w.p.m.) will produce better results than fast erratic sending and on voice, clarity of enunciation is more important than rapidity of speech.
10. Never give up. The last five minutes of the contest could bring five new multipliers!

To summarize, the contest operator must be in top physical condition, be mentally alert, strive for peak efficiency in operating and have a quiet, cooperative family. If, after conscientious application of all the above principles and after at least two years of contest experience you still cannot produce a winning score, the writer will, upon receipt of three worn bug paddles, furnish an engraved, black-edged certificate of sympathy and an assortment of Mickey Finn recipes suitable for feeding to close competitors at pre-contest gatherings.



No matter how "new" your equipment is, or whether or not you operate portable, fixed or "mobile",

GET IN ON THE VHF SWEEPSTAKES!!!!

HISTORY OF THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Remarks Made by Howard Cutting at the
"Past President's Dinner", February 5, 1965

While Hampden County Radio Association isn't to be confused with any preceding club activity in this area, I want to touch briefly on some of the pioneer activities that go back many years, and I would like to have you note how many individuals we know that have sustained an interest in the hobby for forty-five years and more.

In 1919, W1UD, the late Ike Creaser, headed a group that met in the State Street Baptist Church and at his shack. This group hung up many firsts in radio -- broadcasting the Willard-Dempsey fight, sponsoring a Hamfest in 1928, working with the military in the early air races around 1931 at Bowles Airport, and serving as a relay group for military traffic.

Back in 1923, as many of you know, Howard Gurney, W1IC, still going strong, scored a first by setting up receiving gear in the Hampden Church so that the congregation could hear the service from the South Congregational Church in Springfield, when their own pastor had to be absent. Howard's feat made the New York papers, and they called it a big step forward in the use of radio.

Going ahead some years, the Springfield paper of May 24, 1931, carried a picture of the radio club at that time with a membership of 25, and to show you how hams continue their interest, I'll call the role so you can pick out the names of those you know or remember, because some are "silent keys". President, Percy Noble; VP, Harry Fisk; Ike Creaser, John Burdett, Cy Sias, Frank Cushing, Mal Robertson, Fred Robertson, Ray Clancy, Don Cole, Ed Swanson, Carl Honiker, Earl Hewison, M. Hill and E. Cushing...

On the same page of that paper was a flash that may interest our guest from Headquarters. Here it is -- W1BDI had just relayed to W3BWT in Washington, D.C. a message he had received from Beirut, Syria, from the National Geographic expedition saying that they had just entered the sacred city of Meshed in Persia.

In 1933, a ham well known to all of us, W1HDQ, got his ticket.

In the latter part of the 30's, there was little if any club activity so far as I can determine, but hams were active in DX contests, experimenting with 5meters, handling 1938 hurricane traffic, and participating in Army Amateur Radio System drills and traffic handling every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

Amateur activity came to a near standstill soon after our drill on Sunday, December 7, 1941, when word was flashed of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. All amateur gear had to be reported to the government, and all hams had to report at Police Headquarters for finger printing.

During the war years, younger amateurs were in service, while the old-

sters went into fixed or mobile 2½ meter emergency set-ups. Operators of these units had to carry special identification so they could move about during alerts or black-outs without being detained by the police or air raid wardens.

With the opening of the 2 meter band after the war, 144 mc. groups were quickly formed all over the country, and the hams in this area were no exception. Although VHF activity was excellent, it did not have the breadth of appeal and interest to fill the void that an honest-to-goodness and well balanced club could do.

Consequently in November of 1947, amateurs KUE, JQ, FOF, JYH, NY, KFV, IJT, OBQ, APA, LRE, and NLE, decided that a club was badly needed. All these fellows had seen clubs come and go, and so they were determined to create a frame work of by-laws and constitution that would stand the wear and tear for years to come. How well they built we all know.

After much thought and discussion with amateurs interested in all the different phases of our hobby, The Hampden County Radio Club was offered to all amateurs of the area in a kind of package deal in October, 1948, and the first annual meeting was held the next month.

It is quite significant that many of the original creators of the club are still among us, and may I read the first slate of officers. Pres. Gil Williams, W1APA; VP - Wes Thayer, W1LRE; Secretary Clarence Boreau, W1IJT; Treasurer Bob Adolphson, W1NLE. Exec. Comm. - W1 - APA, LRE, IJT, KUE, EOB, JYH, KFV, OBQ, QXV, QWJ, and RFU.

Rog Corey, W1JYH, realizing that club members needed some medium to keep them in touch with club activities, conceived the idea of a monthly bulletin, and found himself stuck with the job of editor. The end result was our Zero Beat which has gone out to members ever since, and it has been credited with keeping up the interest and support of club members in a great measure.

Jumping ahead a bit, by 1952 the club had grown to a healthy one with a membership of 94 which included amateurs from Hampden and Hampshire counties and Connecticut in ages ranging from high school students to retired oldsters, and in June of that year we sponsored the ARRL New England Division Convention and Hamfest in the Industrial Arts Building on the Exposition grounds with an attendance of approximately 2500 hams from all parts of New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. All the club members cooperated enthusiastically, playing big parts and small, in making it a most successful project.

There is a close connection between the activities of club members and the interest and enthusiasm they impart to other members. I don't expect that I have made a complete listing of club members who have been outstanding in various phases of amateur activity, and if you have been omitted from the list as this history unfolds, please don't feel the omission was intentional. It wasn't!

Our early Zero Beat editor, Rog Corey, now transferred to Westwood, was always interested in contests and DX. He's still at it and was named top dog in the January QST for winning the July CD party contest.

Bill Rosner, ex-W1RFU, broke world records for DX on the VHF bands in the middle 1950's.

Dick Stevens, W1QWJ, radio instructor, expert on micro-wave transmission, and experimenter in the UHF field, has given us information, inspiration, and entertainment, frequently aided and abetted by his side kick, Pete Pederson, W1RVW.

Hal Atwater, W1VNH, by his devotion to 2 and 6 meter activities, could always be counted on to run up an impressive score when we battled the Hartford Club in VHF contests, and he is still at it and reaching into UHF fields.

So many of our members have added to the success and good fellowship of the club, that all can take credit and take pride in its progress. A whole evening could be used up listing the public services where our members have been active. W1's - MNG, BVR, FAB, VBG, DGJ, and many others are constantly linking service men with their home folks.

Our TVI Committee has been of immeasurable value in improving the ham radio image in the eyes of the public. When people began to learn that heating pads, hearing aids, neon signs, diathermy machines, and fluorescent lights could louse up a TV program just as nicely as any over-driven ham transmitter, some of them began to realize that the amateur might not be quite as big a devil as he had been pictured.

The years 1948 to the present have been marked by an interesting, ever growing club with members playing a significant part in communications during hurricanes and floods, conducting code practice and technical sessions, participating in field day and vhf contest activities, civilian defense drills, all women's transcontinental air races, MARS operation, and testing and perfecting ham gear.

A summation of club history wouldn't be complete without paying tribute to two recent "Silent Keys". Carl Morris, W1VBG was honored last October 27 with a special citation in braille from the Air Force for his constant service as a civilian operator working in their behalf. Frank Cushing, W1AWW, went back to the very earliest days of ham radio. He founded the company that for many years was one sure place where a ham could get the part he wanted when home brew gear was the rule instead of the exception. He was an interested member of the club until failing health curbed many of his activities.

Perhaps it is a sign of age or maybe experience, when one makes observations or suggestions, but I'm going to take a chance and hope that these closing remarks won't be amiss.

This club has had a relatively long life so far as radio clubs or associations are concerned. It's future depends on the interest and support of all the membership. The Board of Directors has a great responsibility to see that all matters pertaining to policy, procedure, and programming are carefully considered and decided upon in their monthly meetings and then made known to the membership. Many clubs have been weakened, even disbanded, by trying to conduct business from the floor when the club had gathered for an evening of entertainment and good fellowship. I believe our method of handling club affairs has stood the test, and should not be changed or compromised.

Perhaps the greatest responsibility for successfully perpetuating a club rests on the shoulders of the nominating committee. Under our procedure, nomination is usually tantamount to election, and so a nominee should have more than a passing interest in the hobby, should be familiar with the fundamentals of good amateur practice, tradition, and procedure, and should not favor a course that would be a radical departure from the policies that brought this club successfully through the past.



DuesDuesDues...

We can't send out 'reminders' that your membership has run out, a red dot on your address label means it has expired. If the label reads "Jan 79", your membership expired January first, not the 31st! Mail the \$5.00 to Steve Shore, W1ZEV, 20 Valley View Dr., Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002

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WILLIAM ROSNER, Vice President
WALTER C. ROSS, Treasurer
DAVID W. LLOYD, Secretary

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Ken Gurney
Bert Gowell
Alfred Haberman
William Ham
Kenneth Hanna

W1CJW
W1RFU
W1QUQ
W1PHU

W1s
SHX
NLE
RQA
PDF
VNH
NY
CR
KUE
PFR
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OJK
RDR
IJT
MOK
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ETY
UBD
PKI
MSN
KK
TCM
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JWV
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AT
UMF
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LDE
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MAK
UKR
KUL
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SIT
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Melvin Kinsman
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Hugh McLane
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Malcolm Merchant
Carl Morris
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Edward Theroux
Walter Walczak
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Arthur Zavarella
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DXW
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SIB
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OBQ
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SFU
UPH
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BCI
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SWJ
KFV
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HRV
MOK
VBS
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11

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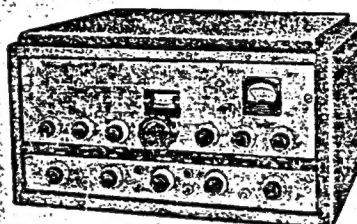
HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO CLUB

These pages were taken from the program issued at the 1952 convention. Many of the club members listed are still very active in the Association. Wonder where everyone else is? If you'll drop a note to Zero Beat, we'll let everyone know the news.

The accumulation of club history and artifacts is still going on. Any old pictures that you might have will be greatly appreciated. K1KBO gave us a nice picture of Stan Call et al, from about 1955. Who else will treasure this kind of junk?

Send or give your goodies to Jeff Duquette, K1BE. Mail it care off Zero Beat, P.O. Box 346, Southwick, Mass 01077

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JOHNSON VIKING 1 Transmitter Kit (amateur net) only \$209.50

150 Watts input on all bands. Band switching 160 thru 10 meters. AM phone or CW. Continuous tuning final tank. Front panel controls. Unique Pierce oscillator. VFO input receptacle. 10 crystal positions. Pin-network coupling. Freedom from parasitics. Two complete power supplies. All stages metered. Desk cabinet 11 3/16" x 15" x 21".

KIT OF Tubes \$36.50
We can supply a complete kit of tubes including the Raytheon 4D32 for the sum of \$36.50. We can wire the unit for you for the sum of \$30 additional. Other accessories are the new TVI#250-21 Kit similar to that recommended by Phil Rind in the June 1952 Q.S.T. and the price is \$24.75. Also available is the new Johnson Low Pass Filter 250-20 which works into a 50 ohm load and will readily pass 1KW (amateur net) — \$16.50.

Hams Learn It's Possible to Receive Extra Kick in Legal 'Home Brewing'

"Home brewing" was the topic of William J. Hall of Wilbraham Friday at a meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association, in Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

The topic referred to building picked up by a receiver, he radio equipment, and not making moonshine and was intended to show that a person can enjoy building radio equipment. Hall, a Monsanto Co. engineer, has written several articles on building amateur radio equipment.

It's very easy for a person to buy all the equipment he needs to be a ham today, but this takes half the fun out of it. I have found that it is personally gratifying to build my own equipment," he said.

Ham radio began in the days of Marconi, when persons were interested in experimenting in the new field of communication, Hall said.

"In those days, one couldn't buy any of the equipment. Crystal and spark transmitters were all made by amateurs."

These early transmissions would only reach across town, and were not actual voices, but merely sounds which could be

said. "From these early experiments, the whole concept of messages sent in code began."

In 1934, the federal government passed a communications act.

"The government was forced to do something, because the amateurs were interfering with government transmissions. The act established certain wave lengths that could be used by amateurs," Hall said.

Ham radio operators have always been interested in developing new and better means of communications.

"They helped to develop the art of radio communications, and did a great deal of the early experiments in trans-Atlantic communications," he said.

The first radio signal bounced off the moon and received back on earth was accomplished by an amateur, Hall said.

"In the early 1960s, a ham radio operator bounced a signal from Boston, off the moon, and was received in California. "Recently, an amateur sent a signal from the east coast to Australia, via the moon, a distance of over 11,000 miles, the longest radio signal ever sent by an amateur."

Even with the sophisticated means of communication available today, amateurs are still interested in experimentation.

"Many amateurs are working with ultra-high-frequency transmissions. They are doing this, even though there is no real value to this, but just because they enjoy it," Hall said.

Today and Sunday, the Hampden County Radio Association will compete with the Hartford Radio Club in a very high frequency contest. The Hampden County club has won the contest the past two years.



Members of Hampden County Radio Association look over some of the newest equipment for amateur radio operators in Feeding Hills Congregational Church, Feeding Hills, Friday. Left to right are: Bert W. Gowell of Wilbraham, Harold F. Potts of Feeding Hills, and William J. Hall of Wilbraham, guest speaker.

Springfield Had Key Roles in Early Days Of Radio Relay League, at 50-Year Mark

12

One Sunday morning in the early spring of 1923, a young Springfield man loaded various radio equipment into his Model T Ford, ventured into the wilds of Hampden, got stuck in the mud, but arrived in time at the Baptist Sanctuary to set up the first sermon broadcast in Western Massachusetts.

Golden Jubilee

The young man was Howard Gurney, a member of the American Radio Relay League which was then in its youth and this year celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Gurney had actually proceeded from South Congregational Church where he had installed broadcasting equipment. The late Rev. James G. Gilkey was to preach from South Church.

The listening congregation was really members of the Hampden Community Church, Gurney recalled. "Their church burned down in January of that year and they were holding services at Baptist Sanctuary which is now called the Federated Church of Hampden."

Their minister, Rev. Hubert Fulton, was out of town, Gurney continued. "He asked me at the last minute if I could arrange a broadcast from South Church rather than have a guest minister come in or have no service at all. I was willing to gamble if he was."

Radio Milestone

It worked well. In fact, the project was cited in a picture article, April 17, 1924, by the Mid-week Pictorial (N. Y.) as one of the "recent developments in radio, wonder science of the century."

In the pictures, rapt expressions of churchgoers formed a peculiar contrast to the impersonal presence of the apparatus before them. Gurney had placed a thorax speaker in the pulpit with a loop antenna and receiver on a table in front. To complete this Orwellian scene, Gurney remembered the deacons taking the offering as if the music were in the church.

Though perhaps no less unusual than the drama of Gurney's precedent, was the birth of the ARRL itself. Springfield and another Springfield man were instrumental in starting the league.

According to a January, 1964, issue of QST, the league's national magazine, Hiram Percy Maxim, famed inventor and industrialist, tried to reach a local operator named Freeman K. Ostrander. Maxim wanted to buy a de Forest audio tube, a precious item in those days, and he knew Ostrander had one.

Contact Impossible

Maxim had a one-kilowatt station with an ultimate sending range of 100 miles, but for some reason, which even exists today, transmission conditions prevented direct ground-wave contact between the two cities.

Maxim was undaunted. Using continental code of the day, he called a youth in Windsor Locks, a member of the Radio Club of Hartford, who relayed the message. The die was cast.

Maxim knew an organization devoted to relaying messages among amateurs across the country would give intelligent perspective to an otherwise diffuse group of experimenters.

The idea paid off. By the middle of May, 1914, the ARRL was in business. In December, 1915, QST was founded. (QST is also the alert-contact signal among operators the world over).

By 1917, the league boasted 6000 members, 4000 of whom served in vital communications posts during the war. The times and a flourishing industry had insured the league's success.

Messages to Europe

The league was destined to make significant history. By 1920, amateurs were using tube-type transmitters and broadcasting voice and gramophone records. On December 7, 1921, American amateurs' signals were received in Europe, and on Nov. 27, 1923, voice contact was established between France and Connecticut.

During the 20's, the first police radio systems were based on amateur radio procedures. The Army and Navy organized radio reserves composed almost entirely of amateurs.

In the 30's, the league had enough knowledgeable amateurs who were able to handle disaster relief messages by the thousand in stress situations. Many will remember New England's flood in 1938. League members were constantly available for service.

At the start of World War II, 60,000 amateurs stood by, some 50,000 of whom participated in communications work during the long struggle.

Purpose Remembered

In the midst of the league's historical potpourri, Springfield was equally active during the formative years. Local members of the league, like Gurney and Ostrander, often participated as a group. Their emphasis always underscored the league's philosophy: relaying messages.

On July 2, 1921, the Springfield Radio Association, which was formed in 1919 by the late Isalah Creaser, broadcast the first heavyweight championship fight from its headquarters in Orleans St.

Club member Cyril Sias, still actively operating, remembered that the reception was good and the fight was in Jersey City, N. J. Others without radios called for the results of each round until Dempsey disposed of Carpentier in the fourth round.

The league commended the local club and gave all participants a certificate praising their effort.

Not much later, the SRA took part in a home show at the Municipal Auditorium from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1, 1924. Their booth was the center of great interest among amateurs and listeners.

Short Notice Project

More drama surrounded the construction of their transmitter. Built on short notice, it was a 10-watt unit hurriedly constructed by Creaser, T. F. Oushing and the late Ralph Gross.

QST lauded the project with special praise for the use of vacuum tubes which emitted a "continuous" wave broadcast. Most transmitters then used a spark system that had a "damped" wave broadcast and was notoriously scratchy.

Of particular note was the antenna that club members had constructed on the Campanile Tower. It had a height of 45 feet with a 50-foot counterpoise, especially helpful in reaching remote spots like Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1000 miles away.

The SRA sent a total of 133 radiograms that week, all in Morse code. The set was in operation from 1 to 11 p. m. each day and stopped only to change operators.

By 1931, the SRA had 25 members. In 1931, 13 of the club's members were licensed operators and were responsible for the success of the "air armada maneuvers" at Bowles Field May 22-25.

Official Service

It was an honorable gesture on the part of the Army that realized the indispensable value of radio. As part of the Army's air maneuvers program, the SRA outfit acted as the official communications service for this area. The arrival and departure of every plane was transmitted to ARRL headquarters in Hartford. Weather conditions, direction and velocity of wind were checked every half hour and relayed to other contact points in New England.

These were some of the SRA's more illustrious moments in the early days. Things have changed of course. Because of reported business conflicts, the SRA gradually died, but on Sept. 17, 1954, with interest rekindled and a new system of transacting affairs, the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc., was formed. Today it boasts 175 members.

Average Amateur

ARRL membership today exceeds 100,000 with stations in Canada, Europe, Africa and South America.

It is said the average American amateur has invested \$1000 in his station and spends another \$200 a year for improvements. He is about 37, close to the average age of America's population, has spent some time in college and makes more than the average income.

While not completely accurate, new members should realize that the HCRA has been around since radio's early days. Some of our founding members are still active.

Reprinted from "Springfield Union, 1964"

ZERO BEAT JAN '79

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION
ARRL Sweepstakes

CALL USED.....

ARRL SECTION. Western Mass.....



C.W. ☐ PHONE ☐

PREC	CALL	CK	SEC
------	------	----	-----

SENT (1 POINT)

RECEIVED (1 POINT)

Separate logs and summary sheets
required for each mode.

BAND	DATE	TIME ON/OFF	TIME	NR	NR	PREC	STATION WORKED	CK	*SECTION	POINTS
				1						
				2						
				3						
				4						
				5						
				6						
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ARRL Sweepstakes

CALL USED.....

ARRL SECTION..... Western Mass

C.W. ☐PHONE ☐

PREC	CALL	CK	SEC
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SENT (1 POINT)

RECEIVED (1 POINT)

Separate logs and summary sheets
required for each mode.

AND	DATE	TIME ON/OFF	TIME	NR	NR	PREC	STATION WORKED	CK	*SECTION	POINTS
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